

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DUBAN 00047 241015Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15
ACDA-12 IO-14 /094 W
-----116412 241919Z /50

R 240945Z JAN 78
FM AMCONSUL DURBAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2808
DIA WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCOSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY MASERU

UNCLAS DURBAN 0047

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: MILI, SF (TRANSKEI)
SUBJ: TRANSKEI ORDERS S.A. DEFENSE PERSONNEL TO LEAVE

REF: 76 DURBAN 590

1. PRIME MINISTER MATANZIMA ANNOUNCED IM UMTATA ON JANUARY 21 THAT ALL SECONDED SOUTH AFRICAN DEFENSE FORCE (SADF) MEMBERS IN TRANSKEI WOULD BE ASKED TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY. NO DATE WAS GIVEN FOR THE WITHDRAWAL. IN A CORDIAL STATEMENT MATANZIMA THANKED THE SADF FOR ITS HELP IN TRAINING AND EQUIPPING THE 320-MAN TRANSKEI FORCE. HE STATED THE DECISION TO ASK THE RECALL OF THE 27-MAN MISSION WAS PART OF AN ON-GOING PROCESS IN TRANSKEI TO TURN OVER SUCH MATTERS TO TRANSKEIANS AS SOON AS THEY WERE CAPABLE OF PERFORMING SUCH TASKS AND STATED TRANSKEIANS WOULD NOW GO TO ANY COUNTRY FOR TRAINING. HE DID NOT INDICATE ANY DISENCHANTMENT WITH THE ROLE OF THE SADF OR DIFFERENCES WITH ANY OF ITS PERSONNEL. HOWEVER, HIS DECISION
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FOLLOWS BY A WEEK THE RECALL BY PRETORIA OF BRIGADIER PHIL PRETORIOUS, WHO HAS HEADED THE TRANSKEI DEFENSE FORCE SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN 1976 AND WHO WAS THOUGHT TO BE POPULAR WITH MATANZIMA. PRETORIOUS WAS REPLACED BY BRIGADIER Y. DE BRUIN.

2. SADF HQ IN PRETORIA REACTED WITH EQUANIMITY TO THE STATEMENT, STATING "CORDIAL MUTUAL RELATIONS WILL SURELY CONTINUE

AS THEY WERE AND WE WILL BE ABLE TO TRAIN TRANSKEIAN SOLDIERS,
SHOULD THEY REQUEST SO, JUST AS WE DID IN THE PAST." HOWEVER,
PRESS REPORTS INDICATE MEMBERS OF THE SADF MISSION IN TRANSKEI
WERE "SHOCKED" BY THE DECISION.

3. MATANZIMA'S ACTION SEEMS PRECIPITIOUS AND NOT WELL
COORDINATED WITH THE SAG NOR DONE WITH THEIR BLESSING.
HE ACTED SIMILARLY IN 1976 WHEN HE UNEXPECTEDLY ORDERED SA
SECURITY POLICE INVOLVED IN STAFFING AND TRAINING THE
TRANSKEI SECURITY POLICE TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY (REFTEL).
FARBER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PERSONNEL, TRANSKEI
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978DURBAN00047
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780036-0088
Format: TEL
From: DURBAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780130/aaaaazid.tel
Line Count: 73
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3eed24e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 DURBAN 590
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 feb 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3726831
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRANSKEI ORDERS S.A. DEFENSE PERSONNEL TO LEAVE
TAGS: MILI, SF
To: STATE DIA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3eed24e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014